



moved with the stars, suggested that it was therefore one of the stars. He wrote a poem about his findings:

No lower than the other stars it lies
And does not move in other ways around
Than all fixed stars — nor change in sign or size,
All this is proved on purest reason's ground;
It has no parallax for us on Earth
By reason of the sky's enormous girth.

In order to avoid being tortured to death Galileo renounced his ideas. He said "I abjure, curse and detest my errors". Instead of execution, he was sentenced to life imprisonment at the age of 69, serving his punishment under house arrest from 1634 until he died in 1642. This was the year when Mr Newton married Mrs Newton. Isaac Newton was born to them in that year and perhaps the shock of fathering a future intellectual colossus was too much for Mr Newton who died six months later.

The Galilean Moons of Jupiter

Not only do the Galilean Moons provide evidence that celestial bodies orbit each other as opposed to orbiting the Earth, but they orbit around Jupiter fast enough for us to be very easily aware of the movement. The inner Moon Io (pronounced 'Eye-Oh') takes only two days to complete one orbit, while Europa takes four days, Ganymede takes one week and Callisto takes two weeks.

Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9

In 1993 a comet which was subsequently named Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 was co-discovered near Jupiter by Eugene, his wife Carolyn Shoemaker and David Levy. Unique about this discovery was that every other known comet orbited the Sun — this comet was in orbit around Jupiter! Once again celestial bodies were defying the conventions in mankind's systematic arrangement of knowledge. Orbital calculations showed that it had previously passed too close to Jupiter, gravitational forces of which had distorted it beyond breaking point into several pieces. A little more than a year later Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 (so named because it was the ninth co-discovery of periodic comets by the Shoemaker/Levy team) continued its orbit around Jupiter in convoy and machine-gunned into Jupiter during a

Yes You Can

The revolutionary evidence provided by Jupiter's moons is visible to you. Grab a pair of binoculars, (preferably at least 7 x 50) steady them on a low wall or other solid structure and take a careful look at Jupiter. Depending on when you look, on either side of it in what appears to be a straight line you will see tiny points of light. At other times you might see the moons all on the one side of Jupiter or all on the other side. If you are very unlucky you might see only one moon while the others hide behind the huge planet or are lost in the glare as they pass in front. But never mind, during the course of the evening one or more of the moons will reappear alongside Jupiter. Websites such as www.kidsastronomy.com/astroskymap/jup_moons.htm will help you to identify the individual moons while www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/objects/javascript/jupiter calculates when moons appear or disappear in front of or behind Jupiter.

week in July 1994. The impact scars in the upper Jovian atmosphere were visible for months.

The origin of craters on the Moon and on Earth had been uncertain. Were they not once volcanoes? Eugene Shoemaker, a geologist, was

